

RECEIVED BY EMAIL

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

17 FEB -6 AM 9:02



VERNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION INC

P.O. BOX 951
VERNON, CONNECTICUT 06066

ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 20:02 by President, Robert Turkington. Motion was made/seconded (Lavasseur/Gauthier) to accept the minutes from the February 29, 2016 Association Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

- The First Quarter 2017 Report reflects income of \$717 and expenses of \$830. Checkbook balance as of 1/30/17 is \$17,762. Toys for Tikes Ameriprise Accounts show a balance of \$31,025 and checkbook of \$6,764.

Motion was made/seconded (Fischer/Hammick) to accept the Treasurer Report presented.

Communications & Bills:

- Thank you cards were received from Chris Prue and Scott Shepard for baskets sent following their surgeries.

Good & Welfare:

- Dick Bowman had reported 2016 activity in the Annual Meeting. The committee continues to respond to needs in 2017.

Toys for Tikes:

- Diane Carpenter reported that in 2016 we received toy & monetary donations from 44 businesses and individuals; 14 businesses/schools collected toys on our behalf; 7 businesses donated delivery trucks; and extra hands were there to help from the Police Explorers and C.E.R.T. Team on final sort Sunday. Because of all of the seemingly small pieces, we were able to financially achieve approx. \$6,700 income and \$5,900 in expenses and provided thousands of toys to 320 children from 170 families. Thanks were given to the TFT team who helped make the effort easier, including the Fire Police Company, Women's Auxiliary and the membership in helping to make it all happen!

We have strong community support that helps us reach our goals year after year. Our largest contributors in 2016 continue to be the annual billiard tournament held at The Pool Factory in Manchester, St. Bernard's Church, Andresen Electrical Services, and The Rockville Elks Lodge.

Charitable Funds Committee: Nothing to report

Department Gala:

- The 2017 event is being hosted by T-541. It will be held on March 4, 2017 at the Rockville Elks Lodge beginning at 18:00. Maneeley's will do the catering. Ticket price is \$35 and tickets will be available at the Staff Meeting.

Comedy Show:

- The officers of the Association propose that we skip this event in 2017 due to declining attendance. Members have not supported this event in large enough quantities to continue moving forward. Rich Harrison believed if we expanded advertising (i.e., Vernon Patch, large signs in town) we may be able to draw a larger audience from the outside. Research into advertising options is needed and feedback is needed. Rich Harrison, Zach Antil, and James Robinson volunteered to assist. What could be changed to attract members to support this fundraiser? Further discussion will happen at the January meeting.
- Based on discussions from the November Association Meeting, several members (Harrison, Antil, Robinson) had volunteered to research expanded advertising, venue change, or ways to draw a larger audience for this event (especially members). As of this meeting, there were no ideas submitted. Discussion was held to possibly make this an October event. Tim Moore and Nick Bartos volunteered to assist Rich Harrison, Zach Antil, James and Allison Robinson. A report of findings will be presented at the May 30th Association Meeting.

Department Picnic:

- The 2017 picnic will be planned with information available at the May 30th Association Meeting. Jeff Bifolck, Jon Andresen, Diane Carpenter, Michelle Kerr and Mike Lavasseur will coordinate.

Department Bus Trip:

- Dan Robertson reported that the New York City Bus trip was a great time and generated \$1,000 profit for the Association. He volunteered to coordinate a 2017 trip. The membership agreed that a trip to Boston in June would be well supported. Additional information will follow.

Old Business:

- A letter had been received last year from the C.E.R.T. Team thanking Steve Augustus for training support. They also included a \$100 donation. Unfortunately the envelope was misplaced and recently found. Bob will contact Al Sheridan and extend an apology for the oversight and the message will be shared with Steve.

New Business:

- As discussed at the BOD Meeting, the Chief Bobby Halton seminar on leadership and attitudes in the fire service will be held on February 12th at the Ellington Senior Center. Donations will be accepted for the National Fallen Firefighters. Dave Galley was asked to accept the cash donations from this seminar and issue a check to the charity. He will work with Chief Eppler on the transaction. V.P. Cory LaFontaine may attend to assist with the donations; however, the other Association Officers are not available.
- Jean Gauthier presented and further discussed the construction of an honor brick walkway to around the flag pole at the Public Safety Complex. The bricks cost \$20 and it was suggested to sell for \$40. Landscaping is necessary (Dave Galley volunteered to research). It was also suggested this would be a good Eagle Scout project. Jean will follow up with the town administration to ensure approval to pursue. Sandy Manseau, Allison Robinson and Bob Turkington volunteered to help.

Chris Hammick motioned to open a separate line item within the Association budget to accommodate the expense/income dedicated to this project. The membership voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

Upcoming Events:

- ET-541 Mothers Day Flower Sale will be held May 12, 13, 14.
- Members are reminded to contact Diane Carpenter prior to sponsored events so that liability insurance can be obtained from Wilcox & Reynolds.
- At this time there is one event per year (Dept. Gala) that is the scheduling responsibility of a fire company. Going forward the schedule is set in the following order:

2017	T-541	2021	R-441
2018	ET-441	2022	E-441
2019	Ambulance	2023	ET-241
2020	Station 141	2024	ET-541

The order may change if additional company assistance is needed for future events.

Good & Well Being:

- Bob Turkington concluded the meeting with a message on how many suicidal deaths are reported annually from the emergency service community. A moment of silence was recognized. Members are urged to seek help/assistance if this thought ever enters consideration.

Motion was made/seconded (Turkington/Hammick) to adjourn the meeting at 20:35.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diane Carpenter, Secretary